

Board of Veterans Services
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2012

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere, Richmond.

Members Present

- William Haneke
- Thad Jones
- Donald Kaiserman
- Kate Kohler
- Don Lecky
- Sandra Love
- George Melnyk
- William Nicholas
- Al Sample
- Christopher Stolle
- Rich Schollmann, representing the Veterans Services Foundation
- George Corbett, representing the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
- Paul Galanti, Commissioner of Veterans Services

Members Absent

- John Anderson
- Richard Anderson
- Mamye BaCote
- John Edwards
- Toddy Puller

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Cynthia Norwood, Office of the Attorney General
- Carol Rauschberg, Department of Human Resource Management
- Anne Atkins, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Steven Combs, DVS
- Jack Hilgers, DVS
- Bill Janis, DVS
- Judy Reid, DVS
- Danielle Weaver, DVS
- Cathy Wilson, DVS

Materials Distributed in the Agenda Packet

- Agenda
- Review of the 2012 General Assembly FY13/14 Budget (PowerPoint Presentation)
- 2012 Session of the General Assembly Veterans and Military Legislation and Budget (PowerPoint Presentation)
- Joint Leadership Council Report
- Veterans Services Foundation Report
- Department of Veterans Services Report
- BVS 2012 Action Plan
- Commissioner Galanti's letter to the BVS re Executive Order 29 (EO29), dated March 19, 2012
- Chairman Jones' Guidance to the Committees re E029, dated March 29, 2012
- Draft EO 29 position paper – Cemeteries Committee

Call to Order

Chairman Thad Jones called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll Call and Quorum Determination

The roll was called and with 11 of 18 members present a quorum was determined. Ms. Sandra Love arrived about 5 minutes later and Delegate Christopher Stolle arrived about 15 minutes later, bringing the number of members present to 13. Mr. George Corbett was present as the representative of the Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations and Mr. Rich Schollmann as the representative of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF).

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Steven Combs to introduce the DVS staff and guests present. Their names and organizations are recorded above.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve the agenda as submitted (*Attachment 1*).

Mr. Bill Haneke made a **motion** to approve the agenda as submitted, **seconded** by Ms. Kate Kohler. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of January 9, 2012 minutes

Chairman Jones stated that the January 9, 2012 minutes had been distributed electronically and asked if there were any corrections. Hearing none, Chairman Jones stated that the minutes would be considered approved as submitted by **unanimous consent**.

Presentations

Review of 2012 General Assembly FY13/14 Budget

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Combs reviewed the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 (FY13/14) budget for the Department of Veterans Services (*Attachment 2*). Mr. Combs stated that the

presentation starts with the base budget (the FY12 DVS budget) and then covers the following budget actions:

- Governor McDonnell's introduced budget;
- Budget amendments (changes to the Governor's introduced budget) approved by the General Assembly (GA);
- Amendments proposed by Governor McDonnell to the budget adopted by the General Assembly, which were subsequently approved by the General Assembly.

2012 Session of the General Assembly

Using a PowerPoint presentation (*Attachment 3*) prepared by Mr. Al Pianalto of Delegate Kirk Cox's office, Mr. Combs provided an overview of the military and veterans budget and legislative items before the 2012 General Assembly. Mr. Combs stated that because of his position, Mr. Pianalto was well placed to provide good observations of what went on during the GA session and that he had graciously allowed him to use the presentation for both the BVS and JLC meetings.

Chairman Jones stated that this past weekend he attended a service honoring cremated remains (cremains) recovered by the Missing in America Project (MIAP). Chairman Jones asked how the MIAP efforts tie-in with DVS. Mr. Combs explained that the MIAP, which is a national non-profit group of volunteers, is working towards the same purpose as DVS – namely, to identify unclaimed veteran cremains and provide them with an honorable final resting place. He said that MIAP has been active in Virginia for about four to five years, and that DVS has been working with MIAP for the past three years. He said that DVS and MIAP have been reaching out to funeral homes to get them to voluntarily provide information so that the unclaimed cremains of veterans can be identified and the veteran can be provided an honorable burial. He said that both groups have met with only limited success with the funeral homes. Because of this, Mr. John Bonnell, a member of the MIAP, took this issue to the JLC and asked for state legislation to require the funeral homes to turn this information over to DVS. The JLC got behind this and a bill was passed for this initiative. DVS will receive this information and verify the identity and eligibility for burial in a veterans cemetery. DVS will provide this information to MIAP for recording in the MIAP database. MIAP will participate with DVS in funeral services of unclaimed cremains at state veterans cemeteries.

Chairman Jones then stated that this past weekend the Richmond Times-Dispatch (RTD) had an article titled "Are We Doing Enough for Veterans in Virginia?" Chairman Jones stated that everyone has a different opinion and that his opinion is that we are doing extraordinary things for veterans. Chairman Jones explained that the Virginia War Memorial (VWM) will host the 40th RTD Public Square "Are we doing enough for our veterans?" tonight, Wednesday, May 16, from 7 p.m. – 8:30 pm. He noted that Commissioner Paul Galanti is on the panel for the public square meeting.

New initiatives (employment, student veterans, etc.)

Chairman Jones introduced Deputy Commissioner Bill Janis, stating that he has been charged by the Governor with continuing to do great things for our veterans. Chairman Jones complimented Deputy Commissioner Janis on the great job he has been doing to date.

Deputy Commissioner Janis gave a presentation on unemployment among returning service members (RSM). He said that he is working with Mr. Joe Barto of TMG, Inc. on a new initiative to increase hiring for RSMs. He noted that Mr. Barto was a retired Army officer and West Point graduate. As part of the initiative, DVS and TMG will work with companies to help the companies reorient their recruiting and hiring practices so that the companies will be better able to go out and recruit veterans for employment. He explained the process to the Board.

Vice Chairman Bill Haneke explained that he has been working with many different companies and veterans groups trying to hire veterans. He said that Capital One was a great example. He said he recently attended a meeting in the Quantico area with the Quantico Government Contractors Association who has about 150 employers with defense-related contractors that are looking to hire veterans.

Deputy Commissioner Janis replied that Capital One has one person in their HR department who works solely with veterans. He stated that DVS and TMG, Inc. will host a workshop at the Capital One campus in Goochland where HR Directors will learn how to better identify, recruit, and hire veterans.

Ms. Cindy Norwood added that there is a new website titled *Hero 2 Hired* (www.H2H.jobs) that is set up for veterans and companies looking to hire veterans.

Reports

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

Mr. George Corbett thanked the Board on behalf of the JLC and Chair Jenny Holbert, then reviewed the JLC report (*Attachment 4*). He covered the seven potential recommendations that have been put forward to date and noted that they would be discussed at the May 23 meeting. The final set of recommendations will be adopted at the July 11 meeting. He noted that the terms of 22 of 23 JLC members will expire June 30 but that approximately 2/3 are eligible for nomination by their veterans service organizations (VSOs) for reappointment by the Governor to a second term.

Veteran Services Foundation

Mr. Rich Schollmann reviewed the VSF report on behalf of Chair Dave Holt (*Attachment 5*). The VSF has raised over \$195,000 to date in FY12, of which \$170,000 is for VWWP. The fundraising has doubled from last year. The VSF reelected Mr. Dave Holt as Chair and elected Ms. Juanita Farrow as 1st Vice Chair and Mr. Schollmann as 2nd Vice Chair. Five board members will not be returning in FY13 and were recognized for their services. The next VSF meeting is scheduled for August 1.

Department of Veterans Services

Commissioner Galanti reviewed the DVS report (*Attachment 6*) which includes a list of upcoming meetings and events. He stated that DVS had a very good year. The legislators are providing DVS with a lot of support. Commissioner Galanti thanked Mr. Combs for his marvelous presentation on the budget and the GA session. Commissioner Galanti thanked

Deputy Commissioner Janis for his presentation on veterans unemployment.

Commissioner Galanti thanked the board members for attending today's meeting.

New Business

Review Executive Order 29 recommendations

Chairman Jones noted that the BVS 2012 Action Plan (*Attachment 7*) calls for discussion of initial Executive Order 29 (EO29) proposals. He called the members' attention to Commissioner Galanti's letter to the BVS of March 19, 2012, requesting support on several items related to EO29. He stated that his e-mail of March 29, 2012 provides guidance to each of the Board's committees (*Attachment 8*). Chairman Jones asked each committee to report on the assignments.

BVS Vice Chairman and Benefits Committee Chairman Bill Haneke reported on the Benefits Committee, the members of which include Ms. Kate Kohler, Mr. William Nicholas, and Ms. Sandra Love.

- Item 1: *Benefit Services section staffing* – working with DVS Benefit section and HR.
- Item 2: *Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program* – the DVS Benefit and Education sections are studying this program and will report back.
- Item 7: *Education services* – the DVS Education section is studying this program and will report back.

Vice Chairman Haneke stated that he hopes to have these reports ready for the next BVS meeting. He then proposed that Benefits Committee meet on July 6. The committee agreed to meet on July 9th at 10 a.m. at the VWM.

Mr. George Melnyk reported on the Cemeteries Committee and stated that the committee met at the Suffolk Cemetery in early April to discuss the impact on the Cemeteries budget. The committee discussed the burial vaults, the funds for maintaining the cemeteries and for replacing equipment at the cemeteries. He stated that the General and Non-General funds cover a good part of the maintenance and equipment replacement but not all of it. The committee would like to establish a reserve fund for maintenance and equipment replacement. The committee recommends the additional funds generated by the cemeteries be used for maintenance and equipment replacement and that any excess be put in a reserve account for projects that require large amounts of funding.

Delegate Christopher Stolle asked if any assistance was needed from the General Assembly to establish the reserve account. Mr. Combs explained that the budget establishes both general fund and non-general fund maintenance reserve accounts. The general fund maintenance reserve account provides a specific amount that may be spent, while the non-general fund maintenance reserve establishes a spending authority. In order to be able to spend funds from the non-general fund maintenance reserve account, DVS must bring in non-general fund revenue through burial operations. He noted that non-general funds come primarily from two sources: the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs burial reimbursement and from fees charged for cemetery burial

operations. Mr. Combs noted that it was the latter (fee for service) that was most in danger of being used to supplement operating funds rather than to fund essential maintenance reserve projects.

Chairman Jones stated that Dr. John Anderson is the Chairman for the Care Centers Committee, but was unable to attend today's meeting. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Don Lecky if he had a report for the Care Centers Committee. Mr. Lecky stated that he did not. Mr. Combs stated that he thought Dr. Anderson might call a meeting for the Care Centers Committee in early July to review the items assigned to the committee.

Chairman Jones stated that he has is drafting three proposals. The first one has to do with legal support for DVS, which does not have a full-time attorney on staff. Mr. Lecky asked what is being doing currently when DVS needs legal assistance. Commissioner Galanti explained that DVS was very fortunate to have the services of Senior Assistant Attorney General Cindy Norwood, but that she was not assigned to DVS full-time and had other agencies as clients.

Chairman Jones stated that his second proposal is for the DVS Benefits section. He would like to establish a partnership between DVS and volunteer claims officers throughout Virginia.

Chairman Jones then reviewed his third proposal, which is to encourage the Board members to donate money to help buy a granite bench for each of the three state veterans cemeteries. Mr. Kaiserman stated that this complement an initiative he has proposed to the JLC – to have VSOs purchase monuments for placement along the woods walkways at the cemeteries. Ms. Norwood stated that when making these donations that the Board members will need to identify the donations as coming from individual members of the BVS, rather than from the Board as a body. She said that if an inscription is placed on the benches, it should read "donated by the members of the Board of Veterans Services" rather than "donated by the Board of Veterans Services."

Chairman Jones said he would present these proposals at the next BVS meeting.

Select nominating committee

Chairman Jones stated that elections for the BVS Chairman and Vice Chairman would be held at the July meeting, and asked Ms. Love and Ms. Kohler to serve on the nominating committee. He asked them to use Mr. Al Sample as a reference if needed. Chairman Jones asked those interested in serving as Chairman or Vice Chairman to submit their names to the nominating committee.

Public comment

No members of the public were present.

Prepare for Next Meeting

Chairman Jones said the next meeting would be on Wednesday, July 18, and would last about three hours.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

Board of Veterans Services

**Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere
Richmond
May 16, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- I. Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call and Introduction of Members, Quorum Determination, Approval of Agenda, and Introduction of DVS Staff and Guests – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
- II. Approval of January 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
- III. Presentations (10:10 – 10:40)
 - a. Overview of the 2012 General Assembly: budget and legislation – *Steven Combs, Director of Policy & Planning* (20 minutes)
 - b. New initiatives (employment, student veterans, etc.) – *Bill Janis, Deputy Commissioner* (10 minutes)
- IV. Reports (10:40 – 11:10)
 - a. Joint Leadership Council – *Jenny Holbert, JLC Chair* (10 minutes)
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *David Holt, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
 - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner* (15 minutes)
- V. New Business (11:10 – 11:45)
 - a. Review Executive Order 29 recommendations – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman and Committee Chairs* (30 minutes)
 - b. Select nominating committee - *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
- VI. Public comment (11:45 – 11:55)
- VII. Prepare for Next Meeting – *Thad Jones, Chairman* (11:55 – 12:00)
- VIII. Adjourn (12:00)

ATTACHMENT 2



THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES *Serving Those Who Served*


VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES
Paul Galanti, Commissioner



BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES MEETING
MAY 16, 2012

REVIEW OF THE 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FY13/14 BUDGET

Claims ♦ Education ♦ Va. Wounded Warrior Program ♦ Care Centers ♦ Cemeteries



THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES *Serving Those Who Served*

OVERVIEW – FY13/14 BUDGET

	FY13 Budget	FY13 Positions	FY14 Budget	FY14 Positions
<i>Base Budget</i>	\$49,916,076	617	\$49,916,076	617
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$3,604,246	55	\$4,595,430	55
<i>General Assembly</i>	\$310,000	0	\$310,000	0
<i>Governor's Amends.</i>	\$294,566	1	\$187,612	1
<i>Final</i>	\$54,124,888	673	\$55,009,118	673



BENEFIT SERVICES

	FY13 Budget	FY13 Positions	FY14 Budget	FY14 Positions	Notes
<i>Base Budget</i>	\$3,641,189	68	\$3,641,189	68	
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	(\$82,306)	0	(\$82,306)	0	CVSO liaison program
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$255,136	2	\$255,136	2	Four claims agents*
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$28,727	0	\$28,727	0	Misc. adjustments
<i>General Assembly</i>	\$150,000	0	\$150,000	0	Claims system
<i>Final</i>	\$3,992,746	70	\$3,992,746	70	

* Two new positions and funding for two existing (unfunded) positions.
Two of the new claims agents will work with the Medicaid project



CARE CENTERS

	FY13 Budget	FY13 Positions	FY14 Budget	FY14 Positions	Notes
<i>Base Budget</i>	\$38,652,205	493	\$38,652,205	493	
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$2,718,753	51	\$3,625,004	51	SBVCC 40-bed addition
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$0	(3)	\$0	(3)	Transfer to other DVS service areas
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$600,000	0	\$600,000	0	Transfer from Admin.
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$305,644	0	\$305,644	0	Misc. adjustments
<i>Final</i>	\$42,276,602	541	\$43,182,853	541	



CEMETERIES

	FY13 Budget	FY13 Positions	FY14 Budget	FY14 Positions	Notes
<i>Base Budget</i>	\$1,711,609	23	\$1,711,609	23	
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	(\$22,593)	0	(\$22,593)	0	Equip. replacement
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$9,241	0	\$9,241	0	Misc. adjustments
<i>Final</i>	\$1,698,257	23	\$1,698,257	23	



EDUCATION

	FY13 Budget	FY13 Positions	FY14 Budget	FY14 Positions	Notes
<i>Base Budget</i>	\$704,223	7	\$704,223	7	
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$0	2	\$0	2	New G.I. Bill require.
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$4,339	0	\$4,339	0	Misc. adjustments
<i>Final</i>	\$708,562	9	\$708,562	9	



VIRGINIA WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

	FY13 Budget	FY13 Positions	FY14 Budget	FY14 Positions	Notes
<i>Base Budget</i>	\$2,514,246	7	\$2,514,246	7	
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$0	1	\$0	1	Virginia Veterans Corps
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$197,018	2	\$197,018	2	Homeless Veterans Initiative
<i>Governor's Amend.</i>	\$199,900	1	\$187,612	1	Fort Monroe Freedom Support Ctr.
<i>Final</i>	\$2,911,164	11	\$2,898,876	11	



VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL

	FY13 Budget	FY13 Positions	FY14 Budget	FY14 Positions	Notes
<i>Base Budget</i>	\$741,312	4	\$741,312	4	
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	(\$14,905)	0	(\$14,905)	0	Reduce parking and printing expenses
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$17,136	0	\$22,334	0	Misc. adjustments
<i>Final</i>	\$743,543	4	\$748,741	4	



ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

	FY13 Budget	FY13 Positions	FY14 Budget	FY14 Positions	Notes
<i>Base Budget</i>	\$1,951,292	15	\$1,951,292	15	
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	(\$20,000)	0	(\$20,000)	0	Funds for wage position
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	(\$600,000)	0	(\$600,000)	0	Transfer to care centers
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$30,917	0	\$33,078	0	Misc. Adjustments



ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT (CONT.)

	FY13 Budget	FY13 Positions	FY14 Budget	FY14 Positions	Notes
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$0	0	\$77,574	0	Emer. Gen. for VVCC (7-yr payback)
<i>Introduced Budget</i>	\$177,139	0	\$177,139	0	IT/telecom charges
<i>General Assembly</i>	\$160,000	0	\$160,000	0	Fill finance, HR positions
<i>Governor's Amend.</i>	\$94,666	0	\$0	0	Central payroll processing
<i>Final</i>	\$1,794,014	15	\$1,779,083	15	

ATTACHMENT 3

2012 Session of the General Assembly Veterans and Military Legislation and Budget

LEGISLATION and BUDGET SUMMARY

BILLS	<u>Introduced</u>	<u>Passed</u>
House	47	27
Senate	23 (70)	13 (40)
RESOLUTIONS		
House	07	04
Senate	02 (09)	01 (5)
BUDGET AMENDMENTS		
Governor's Budget	03	03
House	09	03
Senate	03 (15)	00 (6)
TOTAL	94**	61

** 20 were duplicates or similar bills

Legislation and Budget Analysis - BVS

BVS Recommendation 1 - Delivery of Benefit Services – 4 more claims agents

- Governor's budget included \$255,000
 - Two new positions and funds to fill two authorized (unfunded) positions
- Approved by House and Senate
- HB1121 (Cox, M.K.) and SB254 (Reeves) change the ratio of claims agents to veterans to 1 to 23,000. Passed General Assembly unanimously and signed by Governor.

BVS Recommendation 2 - Education Section Staffing

- Included in Governor's budget. Approved by House and Senate.

BVS Recommendation 3 - Care Center Staffing

- Included in Governor's budget. Approved by House and Senate.

BVS Recommendation 4 - Hampton Care Center Study

- Action taken by Governor and House, but not included in final budget.

BVS Recommendation 5 - Voting Status of *ex officio* BVS members

- HB730 (Dudenhefer) and SB297 (Puller) passed General Assembly unanimously and signed by Governor.

BVS Recommendation 6 - Additional Citizen Board Members

- Not supported by Governor. No action taken by General Assembly.

Legislation and Budget Analysis - JLC

JLC Recommendation 1 - Veterans Identification on Drivers License

- Legislation is not required - DMV will implement without legislation

JLC Recommendation 2 - Unclaimed Cremains

- HB439 (Tata/Anderson/Stolle) and SB433 (Reeves/Puller) passed General Assembly unanimously and were signed by the Governor

JLC Recommendation 3 - Sales Tax Exemption for 501(c) (19) VSOs

- SB114 (McDougle) passed Senate
- House continued until 2013

JLC Recommendation 4 - Homeless Veterans

- Governor proposed \$197,000 and two positions. Approved by House and Senate.

Legislation and Budget Analysis

- ❖ 14 of 94 Bills, Resolutions and Budget Amendments introduced supported BVS and JLC EO29 recommendations (13%)
- ❖ Strong support from Governor and his Administration
- ❖ Strong Bipartisan support in both Houses
 - Every Bill that made it to the floor of the respective house passed
 - Often by wide margins

Legislation and Budget Analysis

- ❖ New BVS and JLC EO29 process worked extremely well
 - Achieved Governor's support early on
 - 10 BVS and JLC initiatives
 - One initiative addressed through administrative procedures
 - Six budget initiatives (five passed)
 - Three legislative initiatives (two passed)
- ❖ Sub-Committees are the key
 - Identify early and work on getting their support
 - Impact statement critical
 - Able to identify all legislation the first day of the session
- ❖ Time to start now to identify next year's objectives

Selected Legislation

HB190 (O'Bannon): requires the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services to promulgate rules and regulations for the administration and implementation of the real property tax exemption for disabled veterans. Such rules and regulations shall include written guidance for veterans and commissioners of the revenue concerning eligibility for the exemption. The bill

also authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services to hear and decide appeals concerning denials of eligibility for the exemption.

HB195 (Lewis): requires the governing boards of each public institution of higher education, in accordance with guidelines developed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, to implement policies that award academic credit to students for educational experience gained from military service.

HB253 (Stolle): adds the surviving spouse or child of a veteran killed in the line of duty to the preference in state employment for veterans. The bill defines child to mean a person under the age of 27 years.

HB922 (Lingamfelter) and SB540 (Puller/ Marsden): Provides that the tax exemption for the primary residence of a disabled veteran, a disabled veteran and his spouse, or a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran includes real property (i) held in a revocable inter vivos trust over which the veteran, the veteran and his spouse, or the surviving spouse hold the power of revocation; (ii) held in an irrevocable trust under which a veteran alone or in conjunction with his spouse possesses a life estate or an estate for joint lives, or enjoys a continuing right of use or support; or (iii) held by a veteran alone or in conjunction with his spouse as tenant or tenants for life or joint lives. The bill also provides that the exemption for the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran includes property held in any of these ways. Finally, the bill establishes a formula for prorating the amount of the exemption in the event there are owners in addition to the disabled veteran.

HB938 (Lingamfelter): Requires the regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the Department of Health Professions, or any board named in Title 54.1 except the Board of Medicine and the Board of Dentistry, to accept the military training, education, or experience of a service member returning from active military service in the armed forces of the United States, to the extent that such training, education, or experience is substantially equivalent to the requirements established by law and regulations of the respective board for the issuance of any license, permit, certificate, or other document, however styled or denominated, required for the practice of any business, profession, or calling in the Commonwealth.

ATTACHMENT 4

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS REPORT TO BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES May 16, 2012

The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) met March 28. At the meeting the JLC:

1. Reviewed JLC 2011-2012 Initiatives and the General Assembly session;
2. Reviewed prior-year JLC Initiatives and the current status of initiatives;
3. Discussed potential initiatives for 2012-2013.

As was evident at the meeting, the JLC is already hard at work already on the development of Executive Order 29 (EO29) recommendations for Governor McDonnell to consider for the 2013 General Assembly.

- Seven recommendations have been put forward thus far, each with a supporting point paper. The recommendations concern:
 1. Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center;
 2. JROTC to receive credit in lieu of required physical training;
 3. Electronic return of absentee ballot voted by overseas voters;
 4. Individual and corporate income tax credit for hiring returning or disabled military veterans;
 5. Sales and Used Tax Exemption for Veterans Service Organizations;
 6. In-State Tuition Eligibility for Veterans;
 7. Military Retirement Pay.
- The point papers presented on March 23 are a “first pass” at each recommendation. The recommendations will be modified and refined as the Veterans Service Organizations do more research and receive more feedback on their proposals.
- The JLC will discuss the proposed recommendations again at the May 23 meeting. Additional recommendations may be introduced.
- The final set of recommendations will be adopted at the July 11 meeting. New issues may also be introduced at the July meeting.

The terms of 22 of 23 JLC members expire June 30. Approximately 2/3 are eligible for nomination by their VSOs for reappointment by Governor McDonnell to a second full term.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny M. Holbert
Chair

ATTACHMENT 5

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Board of Veterans Services May 16, 2012

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees met on May 2, 2012. A quorum was present. The following actions were taken.

- (1) Received Board of Veterans Services Chairman's, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC) Chairman's, the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner's, and VSF Committee Reports and a Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Update;
- (2) Reviewed Foundation fundraising and fundraising events conducted to date during FY12;
- (3) Approved VSF FY12 Third Quarter Financial Report;
- (4) Approved VSF-DVS FY12 Budget extension until August 2012;
- (5) Elected FY13 Board officers; and
- (6) Confirmed that the next Board meeting will be held on August 1, 2012 at the Virginia War Memorial.

The Development and Finance Committees met before the Board meeting on May 2, 2012. Each Committee had a quorum. The minutes of the Development and Finance Committee meetings are posted on the Commonwealth Calendar as are the minutes of the VSF Meeting.

Dr. Leroy Gross gave an interesting presentation on the Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic which is part of the College of William and Mary School of Law and has participation by Virginia Commonwealth University. The Clinic is organized to meet the needs of veterans and provide law students with practical skills.

As of 10 May, the Foundation has raised over \$195,000, of which over \$170,000 is for VWWP, during FY12. Additionally, two golf tournaments were conducted whose funds have not as yet been received. It is estimated that they should bring in another \$10,000 for VWWP. Total fundraising is double the level of last year at this time and several significant fundraising events are yet to be conducted this month and in June.

The Board of Trustees reelected the following officers for FY13:

Chair, David Holt

1st Vice Chair, Juanita Farrow

2nd Vice Chair, Richard Schollmann

In keeping with the VSF Board Bylaws, their terms will be effective July 1, 2012.

Additionally, five Board members were recognized for their valuable service as they will not be returning in FY13. They are: two founding nine year members; Dr./Colonel. Leroy Gross (USAF) and Major General Fredric Leigh (USA); Ms./Major Supriya Christopher (USA), who has served for seven years; Mr. David Richardson, who was Board Chairman from 2009-2011; and Captain Leo Wardrup (USN), who was Vice Chairman of the Board Finance Committee.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2012, as mentioned above. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the 4th Quarter FY12 Fund Statement; (2) approval of the FY13 VSF-DVS Budget; (3) review VSF FY12 and FY13 fundraising programs; (4) refinement of VSF proposed logo; (5) review of FY13 Goals and Objectives; and (6) a presentation by VWWP.

Respectfully submitted,

David Holt
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 6

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES REPORT TO BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES May 16, 2012

Summary of DVS operations: March – May 2012

- ***Benefit Services: assists Virginia's veterans and their dependents in obtaining benefits to which they are entitled under federal, state, and local laws***
 - Legislation passed by the 2012 General Assembly, which takes effect July 1, will reduce the ratio of claims agents to veterans from 1:26,212 to 1:23,000.
 - This will necessitate hiring four additional claims agents – taking DVS from 32 to 36 claims agents.
 - Governor McDonnell's budget includes funding to fill these positions. Two claims agents will be dedicated to a Medicaid-related project (see below).
- ***Veterans Education and Training: approves educational programs so veterans and their dependents may receive their educational benefits***
 - At the request of a veteran and the Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), DVS worked with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) to classify EVMS as a public institution for GI Bill purposes. This is significant because the USDVA will cover the entire tuition and fees at a public school, whereas at private schools the tuition covered by the GI Bill is capped at \$17,500. The savings for a veteran attending EVMS could amount to as much as \$29,000 per student per year.
- ***Virginia Veterans Care Centers: provide long-term care and short-term rehabilitation to Virginia's veterans***
 - Design work is proceeding on the 40-bed addition to the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center.
 - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) has approved the preliminary design submission. This is a significant milestone. The next step is development and submission of detailed design plans.
 - DVS hopes to complete design work by July and begin construction in early fall.
 - Several renovation projects are ongoing at Virginia Veterans Care Center, including parking lot expansion and road work.
- ***Virginia Veterans Cemeteries: Virginia's veterans cemeteries are shrines commemorating the personal sacrifice of those who served and those who stand ready to defend our freedom***
 - The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk) performed 88 burials in April, a monthly record for the cemetery.

- DVS was notified that federal grant funding will be available in FFY12 to install pre-placed outer burial containers at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia) and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk). Design work is already underway. DVS will be able to provide the outer burial containers at no charge to most veterans and their families – a significant benefit that brings state veterans cemeteries in line with the benefits offered at national cemeteries.
- **Virginia Wounded Warrior Program: provides behavioral health, rehabilitation services, and support to veterans, National Guard members, reservists, and their family members**
 - Criminal Justice Partners Training:
 - The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, as part of a grant, is sponsoring free two-hour training sessions for criminal justice system professionals (Probation and Parole, Community Corrections/Pre-trial Services, Magistrates, Commonwealth and Defense Attorneys) in each of its five regions. Training will provide an overview of combat stress and the increasing numbers of veterans and service members who are involved in the criminal justice system.
 - Continuing legal education credits have been approved by the Virginia Bar Association and educational credits approved by the Virginia Department of Corrections. Approval is pending by the Department of Criminal Justice Services for law enforcement participants.
 - VWWP, in collaboration with the Partnership for People with Disabilities, hosted a webinar entitled, “*Military Children During Wartime: Risk, Resilience, and Community Response.*” The webinar had approximately 225 individuals registered.
 - VWWP, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health and Kognito Interactive, has launched *Family of Heroes*. In this interactive training simulation, families of the 280,000 veterans in northwest Virginia can learn critical skills to manage the challenges of adjusting to post-deployment life, including how to identify post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicidal intent.
- **DVS HQ: Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, agency-wide projects, and special initiatives**
 - DVS is working with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) and Department of Social Services (DSS) regarding the initiative to improve access to USDVA compensation/pension and medical benefits for Virginia veterans by identifying veterans receiving Medicaid benefits and helping those who wish to do so apply for USDVA benefits and/or health care. Funding for two positions was proposed by Governor McDonnell and is expected to be approved by the General Assembly.
 - DVS is tackling employment issues on several fronts, including the pilot project to work with employers on new ways to approach the recruitment and hiring of veterans.

- Legislation passed by the 2012 General Assembly makes several positive changes to the laws governing the Real Estate Tax Exemption for 100% service-connected disabled veterans. DVS is working closely with representatives of Virginia's Commissioners of the Revenue regarding implementation of the new laws.
- A ceremony announcing the new Commonwealth of Virginia Armed Forces Veterans ID card will be held May 30, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center at 1201 Broad Rock Boulevard, Richmond. The ID card will allow veterans to quickly prove their veteran status, enabling them to take advantage of discounts and other veteran-specific promotions offered by nearly 7,000 retailers in Virginia. DMV will begin taking applications for the new ID card on May 30.

Upcoming meetings and events

- **Richmond Times-Dispatch Public Square – “Are we doing enough for our veterans?”** May 16, 7 p.m., Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere, Richmond
- **Welcome Home Iraq Veterans parade:** May 19 (Armed Forces Day), 10 a.m., Richmond. The parade route will run from the intersection of Boulevard and Kensington to the Carillon at Byrd Park.
- **Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations meeting:** May 23, 10 a.m., American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
- **Memorial Day ceremonies:** May 28, 10 a.m.:
 - Virginia Veterans Cemetery, 10300 Pridesville Road, Amelia;
 - Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, 5550 Bagging Plant Road, Dublin;
 - Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, 5310 Milners Road, Suffolk;
 - Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere, Richmond
- **Virginia Veterans ID Card Rollout Ceremony:** May 30, 1 p.m., McGuire VA Medical Center, 1201 Broad Rock Blvd, Richmond
- **32nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games Kickoff Event:** June 25, 11 a.m., State Capitol South Portico, Richmond
- **Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations meeting:** July 11, 10 a.m., American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond
- **Board of Veterans Services meeting:** July 18, 10 a.m., Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere, Richmond
- **Veterans Services Foundation meeting:** August 1, 10 a.m., Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere, Richmond

I cannot thank the Board of Veterans Services members enough for their continued support of Virginia veterans and the Department of Veterans Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Galanti
Commissioner

ATTACHMENT 7

Board of Veterans Services 2012 Action Plan – “Building Upon Our Success”

January 9 meeting

- DVS Operations Briefings: Cemeteries and Virginia Wounded Warrior Program.
- Discuss 2012 General Assembly session, including Governor McDonnell’s proposed budget, DVS Agency Legislation, and other veterans legislation.
- Review Executive Order 29 (EO29) *Serving Virginia’s Veterans* and the role of the BVS
- Administrative matters, as required.

January – May: “*Research and development*”

- Committees hold meetings to review/discuss potential EO29 proposals.
- BVS members research initial EO29 proposals and prepare background papers for presentation at May 9 meeting.

May 16 meeting

- Review 2012 General Assembly Session: budget and legislation.
- Review and discuss initial EO29 proposals.
- Select a nominating committee for July 2012 election of officers.

May – July: “*Putting Meat on the Bones*”

- BVS members continue research on EO29 proposals and prepare background papers for presentation at July 18 meeting.
- Candidates for BVS Chairman or Vice-Chairman submit resumes to nominating committee.

July 18 meeting

- Review, discuss, and approve BVS 2012 EO29 recommendations.
- Review, discuss, and adopt JLC 2012 EO29 recommendations.
- Elect BVS Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

NLT August 15

- Submit BVS 2012 EO29 recommendations to DVS.

November 14 meeting

- Adopt 2013 Meeting Schedule.
- Adopt 2013 Action Plan.
- DVS Operations Briefings: Benefits, Care Centers, and Education.
- Review DVS Strategic Plan.

Adopted January 9, 2012

ATTACHMENT 8

Chairman's Guidance to the Committees regarding Executive Order 29 (EO29)

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) committees are asked to study the following issues identified in Commissioner Galanti's letter of March 19, 2012:

Benefits Committee

- **Item 1:** *Benefit Services section staffing*
- **Item 2:** *Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program*
- **Item 7:** *Education services*
- Delegate Anderson to work with the Benefits Committee on these items

Cemeteries Committee

- **Item 3:** *Veterans cemeteries*
- Delegate Stolle to work with the Cemeteries Committee on this item
- Mr. Corbett of the JLC to work with the Cemeteries Committee on this item

Care Center Committee

- **Item 4:** *Site evaluation study for the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center*
- **Item 6:** *Virginia Wounded Warrior Program*
- Delegate BaCote to work with the Care Centers Committee on these items

Chairman Jones

- **Item 5:** *Legal Support*
- **Item 8:** *Communications*
- Senators Edwards and Puller to work with the Chairman on these items

Other

- **Item 9:** *New initiatives related to education, employment, and homelessness.* No further action is necessary at this time, but the BVS will work with the Department of Veterans Services if the opportunity arises.

Thad A. Jones
Chairman
Board of Veterans Services
March 29, 2012

Looking and Moving Forward In 2012

ATTACHMENT 9

2013 POSITION PAPER BVS CEMETERIES COMMITTEE

OBJECTIVE: To assess the impact on the Virginia state veterans cemeteries' budget of the \$400 increase in federal funding for veterans burials.

BACKGROUND

1. Prior to October 2011 state veterans cemeteries received \$300 per veteran burial from federal funding to cover the expense of the burial. In October 2011 the amount increased to \$700 per veteran burial.
2. State veterans cemeteries do not receive any federal funding for spousal burials. Many states charge a fee to offset the costs of spousal burials. Virginia currently charges \$300.
3. At Virginia state veterans cemeteries, veterans and spouses are charged \$400 each to cover the cost of burial vaults in burial gardens without prepositioned burial vaults. Burial vaults may also be purchased from a private vendor (average cost \$800 - \$1,300). When prepositioned burial vaults are installed at the Amelia and Suffolk cemeteries the \$400 charge will be eliminated for most veterans.
4. Maintenance reserve and equipment replacement funds for Virginia veterans cemeteries come from two sources: the General Fund (GF) and a Non-General Fund (NGF) appropriation. For the cemeteries, NGF sources of maintenance reserve funds are the fee for spousal burials and the federal funding.

DISCUSSION

1. While some General Fund (GF) support is provided for maintenance reserve and equipment replacement at Virginia veterans cemeteries, the amount is insufficient to meet all requirements.
2. The increase in federal funding is projected to be \$280,000 per year. While this may not fully fund all maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements, it is a significant contribution that will reduce future GF support needed from the Governor and General Assembly.
3. The committee investigated the effect of foregoing the \$400 per vault charge to veterans and spouses being buried in burial gardens without prepositioned vaults and also the \$300 burial fee charged spouses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the BVS recommend to the Department of Veterans Services and the Governor that:

1. The additional federal funds be used for the NGF portion of the maintenance reserve and equipment replacement requirements.
2. The charges for burial vaults for veterans and spouses and the burial fee for spouses be kept in place, subject to a bi-annual review by the BVS Cemeteries Committee.
3. All efforts be made to gain support for this initiative so that General Fund support for the state veterans cemeteries is not reduced.